

assigned to basic training in South Carolina, Angela was eventually sent to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and Ft. Lewis, Washington before her deployment to Iraq in January 2005.

During her first tour in Iraq, Angela earned the Command Team Coin for Excellence for her role in missions outside Mosul. Disguised as a local Iraqi in the full length black dress and head cover, Angela worked side by side with her fellow soldiers to conduct the peace keeping missions so vital to stability in Iraq.

Upon her return from her first tour of duty, Angela was assigned to Ft. Lewis, where she was trained as a sniper. She also met her husband, James Russell Owens, and the two were married in September of 2006. Both Angela and James have since been reassigned to Iraq and are stationed at Camp TQ.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Angela Marie Cernich Owens who volunteer to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear to their hearts. While brave men and women like Angela serve in the name of freedom and liberty, her family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget her sacrifice and commitment.

SENATE ALL-NIGHTER

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I am sure we have all seen the images on the evening news and in this week's papers.

Cots laid out in the Capitol's hallways to provide for an all-night debate on Iraq. Oh, the plight of the modern day United States Senator.

What a decision to make. Sleep on a leather couch in a Capitol hideaway, or bunk up in the LBJ Room on a turned-down rollaway. We appreciate these good Senators' tough sacrifice, but how about our troops in the field?

While Senators are trying to get some shut-eye between rhetorical battles on the Senate floor, our soldiers are getting no sleep while dodging real bullets in combat.

Consider one 22-year-old Marine's comment to a reporter about life in Iraq—"If I get five minutes to close my eyes, I take it."

Another Staff Sgt. said "The 45-minute catnap is worth a million bucks. Getting some is better than none."

Let the debate go forward, but spare our troops who are sleeping in the sand and dirt the indignity of this political theater.

TRIBUTE TO TOM MAYER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Boulder County Commissioner Tom Mayer of Louisville, CO, who passed away on June 22, 2007. He was one of our county's most compassionate advocates in civic affairs and will be greatly missed by his loved ones, friends and the community.

Commissioner Tom Mayer was born March 22, 1951. In 1973, overlooking the Hudson

River and Catskill Mountains, Tom received his bachelor's degree in physics from Bard College. He later left his native New York and New Jersey to pursue a master's degree in atmospheric sciences from the University of Illinois in 1976. He then spent 26 years as a software engineer at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO.

Though the white-bearded Boulder County commissioner savored the complexities of a good wine and a changing weather system, he held little tolerance for bad government and static bureaucracy. In 1992, Commissioner Mayer sought and won a seat on the Louisville City Council and went on to serve 11 years. During Tom's time on City Council he also served as a representative to the Boulder County Consortium of Cities, Boulder County Recycling and Compost Authority, and the U.S. 36 Major Investment Study.

It was Commissioner Mayer's unwavering commitment to health and human services, limiting growth and preservation of open space that drove him to change Boulder County government as a county commissioner. Tom passionately served as a commissioner from 2003 until his passing. His other commitments included: Boulder County Human Services Coordinating Council, Metro Area County Commissioners, Colorado Counties Inc., Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, State of Colorado Child Welfare Allocation Committee and the National Association of Counties Health and Human Service Committee.

We will miss Commissioner Mayer's style of leadership defined by his strong social conscience and overall sense of social justice. With a big heart and never-ending compassion he tirelessly fought for the underprivileged. Tom's intellect and generosity made him an admirable servant working for the public good with the right motivation. Tom helped make Boulder County a better place for all of us.

If the measure of a life well-lived is the impact that a person has on others, then Tom's impact is broad and deep. We all owe him a debt of gratitude and respect, and I am particularly indebted to him for his early support of my work in public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and remembering his life while expressing our deepest sympathies to his family for their loss.

FREE THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern to recognize the one year anniversary of the capture of three Israeli soldiers. Over one year ago, Hezbollah terrorists infiltrated into Israeli territory and attacked two IDF armored jeeps patrolling the border with Lebanon, killing three soldiers and kidnapping two: Eldad Regev, 26, of Kiryat Motzkin and Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser, 31, of Nahariya. Weeks earlier, on June 25, Gilad Shalit, 20, of Hila, was abducted by Hamas in the Gaza strip.

As an original cosponsor of House Resolution 107, a resolution which calls for the immediate and unconditional release of these Israeli soldiers held captive by Hamas and

Hezbollah, I was extremely pleased that it passed the House unanimously on March 3th of March. This critical piece of legislation demanded that Hamas release Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, and required Hezbollah accept the mandate of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 to release Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev.

My efforts to assist in the release of these soldiers began in July 2006 when I wrote to American Red Cross' Interim President Jack McGuire urging the American Red Cross to apply pressure to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assess the well-being of these three Israeli soldiers. In that letter, I admonished Hezbollah and Hamas for continuously failing to accede to basic standards of humanitarian conduct and denying competent medical personnel and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross access to the Israeli captives.

Hezbollah's and Hamas' blatant disregard for international law and the malicious uncertainty they have unleashed on the captured soldiers' families is simply heartless. This obvious disrespect for humanitarian law warrants an international response. Having met with Karnit Goldwasser, the wife of kidnapped Israeli soldier Ehud Goldwasser, I am even more committed to advocate for the plights of these brave soldiers.

I will continue to intensely oppose terrorist activities that compromise human life to advance a drastic agenda. These illegitimate actions only solidify the United States' commitment to support Israel as the only true democracy in the Middle East and achieving peace in the region.

Over the past few years, we have watched violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories spiral out of control. Clearly it is time for the United States to become more actively engaged in the region. While we continue to consume ourselves with our own war against terrorism, we cannot forget that Israel has been waging its own war against terrorism, as well as its own fight for democracy, for more than 55 years. Today, I stand with my colleagues in sending a message to the people of Israel: The support Israel enjoys from the United States is stronger today than it has ever been.

I will continue to lend my vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare and survival of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state with secure borders.

We cannot remain silent on this grave issue: we owe it to these brave soldiers, their families, and to ourselves. Silence would only tell the rest of the world that these actions have become acceptable. I urge my colleagues to continue to unequivocally condemn these acts and pray for the return of these brave soldiers and peace in the region.

HONORING WEEKI WACHEE SPRINGS ATTRACTION ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Florida's most distinguished natural and cultural treasures. Weeki Wachee Springs will be

celebrating its 60th anniversary from July 27–29. This famous attraction is a rich part of Florida's heritage, showcasing 60 years of one of a kind "mermaid" shows, as well as outdoor recreational opportunities, including river cruises, nature trails, canoeing, kayaking, and a water park.

Weeki Wachee got its start as a Florida phenomenon in 1946, when Newton Perry, a retired World War II Navy diving instructor, recognized the site's potential as a unique tourist attraction. The Seminole Indians gave "Weeki Wachee" its name, which means "little spring" or "winding river" in their language. The spring, which is so deep that the bottom has never been found, bubbles with crystal-clear water from the pristine Floridan Aquifer and maintains a year-round temperature of 72 degrees.

Perry invented a method of breathing underwater through a tube that allowed performers to move freely without cumbersome SCUBA equipment. He built a theater into the limestone, submerged below the surface of the water, so viewers could look right into the natural beauty of the ancient spring. The first show at the Weeki Wachee Springs underwater theater featured women dressed as mermaids performing underwater synchronized ballet. It opened on October 13, 1947, one day before Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier.

When Weeki Wachee was purchased by ABC in 1959, its popularity began to skyrocket. More than half a million people came to visit the spring each year, and girls came from as far away as Tokyo to audition as mermaids. Celebrities including Don Knotts, Esther Williams, Arthur Godfrey and Elvis Presley all came to Weeki Wachee.

While the park continues to attract thousands of visitors each year, Weeki Wachee will forever be remembered as one of Florida's first and finest attractions. Weeki Wachee is a showcase of the superb natural beauty and friendly atmosphere that continues to attract so many to our great State.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRENT
HOLBROOK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Brent Holbrook. After nearly 40 years with the U.S. Department of Treasury—Internal Revenue Service, IRS, he retired this past June.

During his tenure, Brent worked at the IRS Fresno Service Center. Here, he steadily advanced in various staff positions to finally become a Supervisor. He then managed a large team of analysts, agents, and auditors improving the efficiency of processing Federal and State tax returns. I have had the pleasure of working with Brent frequently and his dedication to the community is to be commended.

In 1999, Brent was selected as the Governmental Liaison for California's San Jose Area and the Central Valley. In this position, he worked with the three California State tax agencies on compliance and customer service projects. He also served as the IRS Liaison for

11 congressional offices, providing them with IRS news and information, while answering constituent inquiries on general tax law. As his tenure with the IRS ends, Brent will be remembered as an example to staff throughout the Federal Government for his outstanding ability to work closely and effectively with government officials.

Throughout his career at the IRS, Brent Holbrook has proven to be a highly effective administrator who was always committed to excellence in public service. As he gets ready to spend much more time with his wife Linda, I wish him much continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING MR. CHRISTOPHER
CAVANAUGH, RECIPIENT OF THE
PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY
SCHOOL CORPORATION 2008
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, the educators of our country's youth are the trusted stewards of our country's future, and it is important to recognize those outstanding and irreplaceable teachers who go above and beyond serving our communities. Mr. Christopher Cavanaugh, of Plainfield, Indiana, is one such estimable teacher. He is a profound role model for aspiring teachers and good citizens.

Mr. Cavanaugh has been teaching students and setting standards of excellence at Plainfield High School for 17 years. On June 14, 2007, he was recognized by the Plainfield Community School Corporation as the 2008 Teacher of the Year for his work teaching senior government, Cultural Heritage of the American People, and We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution. His exceptional work highlights the vital role the American people play in their Government, teaching students not only the principle of their rights, but the honor of their responsibilities.

Last year, Mr. Cavanaugh received the inaugural American Civics Teacher Award, a national award sponsored by the National Education Association, the Center for Civic Education, and the Center on Congress at Indiana University. When he traveled to Washington, DC, to receive this distinguished honor, I had the distinguished pleasure of meeting with him in my office to discuss his enthusiasm for teaching American civics and his dedicated service to the community. It was immediately clear that his priorities include not only endowing his students with knowledge, but motivating them to act on what they learn by being responsible citizens and honoring the ideals of democracy by being lifelong participants in their Government.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Cavanaugh continues to encourage and empower students as the coach of Plainfield's swimming and diving team. His devotion and impetus have earned him recognition from the Indiana High School Athletic Association and he has received the Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year award eight times.

It is an honor and a privilege to have Mr. Cavanaugh inspire the hearts and minds of young Hoosiers. His work honors democracy

and helps to safeguard our country's future. By invigorating today's youth with the power and passion of the free world, Mr. Cavanaugh does his part to protect liberty for generations to come. I congratulate my cousin on his vision, his dedication, and his success. Chris, I am proud of you.

HONORING MARINE CORPS
CORPORAL PAUL BRODNER AND
SERGEANT ANDREW LOWE

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest sense of pride that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Marine Corps Corporal Paul Brodner, Jr. and Sergeant Andrew Lowe. Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe, both constituents of mine from El Cajon, California, recently returned from a seven month deployment to Haditha, Iraq, with Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment.

Immediately upon arrival in Haditha, which had a reputation as one of the most dangerous locations within Al Anbar Province and all of Iraq, Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's patrol were targeted and attacked by Sunni insurgents. For Marines in Iraq, especially those serving in Al Anbar, small arms and sniper fire, grenades and improvised explosive devices are a daily threat that challenge mission objectives and personal safety.

The Sunni insurgency in Haditha, at its strength, initiated a campaign of murder and intimidation. Despite being a hotbed of such activity, Marine units in Haditha launched a successful counterinsurgency operation that ultimately restored control of the city's infrastructure and resources to local officials and workers, and suppressed the sense of fear that was preventing Iraqis from joining police and security forces.

By the end of Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe's deployment, Haditha's police force exceeded 200 volunteers and began conducting security operations independently of the Marines—who also began receiving regular intelligence reports on insurgent activity from city residents. Progress in Haditha became measurable, especially as attacks against Iraqi and coalition forces decreased from an average of ten per day to only a handful each month. Today, Marines and Iraqi soldiers are serving side-by-side and, most importantly, our Marines continue to provide Iraq's security forces with the training and techniques they will need to protect their government and its people.

It is without question that the service men and women who have served in Iraq have demonstrated absolute selflessness and courage. In fact, I am reminded of a recent conversation I had with a Marine leader regarding our efforts in Iraq, particularly the progress of our Marines in Al Anbar Province. The message relayed to me was, "We are crushing the enemy in Al Anbar."

Madam Speaker, this continued success in Al Anbar would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of Americans like Corporal Brodner and Sergeant Lowe. Their